

WICKLOW SPORTS & RECREATION PARTNERSHIP & WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL



KATIE TAYLOR BURSARY FOR THIRD LEVEL EDUCATION 2025-26

BURSARY GUIDELINES

To build on its role in promoting social inclusion, Wicklow County Council has established an Educational Bursary for undergraduate degree courses (**Level 7 or 8**). The Katie Taylor Bursary is a Sports Scholarship intended for people who have excelled at and displayed potential and dedication to their chosen sport.

This bursary provides financial assistance to individuals who may be unable to pursue a course of study while maintaining sporting success due to economic, social, or other disadvantages.

DETAILS OF BURSARY

One bursary of €1,500 will be awarded to the successful applicant for each academic year. The bursary will be awarded for a period of 3 years (or for 4 years with the approval of the Council), provided always that funding is available. A student who receives a bursary and then must repeat a year will not receive the bursary for that repeat year. Furthermore, it will be at the discretion of Wicklow County Council whether such a student will receive the bursary for the subsequent years of their degree course. Bursaries may be deferred at Wicklow County Councils discretion. Continuation of the Bursary will be subject to certification of the candidate's satisfactory performance, including attendance and results for each academic year and continued participation in their sport.

This bursary is funded by Wicklow County Council.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A BURSARY

Applications are invited from people living in County Wicklow who wish to pursue a degree course (Level 7 or 8) at any recognised third level institution.

Bursaries are not available for either PLC courses or postgraduate courses.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

- Applicants must have secured a place at a recognised third-level educational institution within the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, the UK, or the EU.
- Applicants must show the ability, motivation, and commitment to successfully complete their chosen course.
- Applicants must be enrolled in the **first year** of a third-level degree course.
- A **high level of attendance** must be maintained across all course modules for the duration of study.
- Applications must include **academic or sports reference**.
- Applicants should demonstrate how the bursary will help them continue their education and participation in sport at a high level by reducing existing barriers.
- Satisfactory **academic performance** must be maintained and proven throughout the course.
- Mature students will be assessed by **Wicklow County Council** on an individual basis to determine eligibility.
- Applicants (and their parents/guardians, where applicable) must have been **resident in County Wicklow since 1 October 2022**. Documentary proof may be required.
- Applicants must meet one of the following **nationality conditions**:
 - Hold EU nationality
 - Have official **Refugee Status**
 - Have been granted **Humanitarian Leave to Remain** in the State
 - Have permission to remain in the State through **marriage to an Irish or EU national** residing and working in the State (or be their child)
 - Be a national of a **European Economic Area (EEA)** member country
 - Be a **Ukrainian resident in Wicklow** under Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection

SELECTION PROCESS

The primary aim of the Bursary is to empower students to reach their full potential in both education and sport by providing financial support to help overcome barriers that may hinder their progress. Applicants are encouraged to outline, through a personal statement, how this assistance will enable them to pursue their studies and maintain their commitment to high-level sporting performance.

All information provided will be subject to verification, and supporting documentation may be requested during the selection process. Wicklow County Council will appoint a

selection panel to assess applications based on merit and eligibility. Applicants who meet the specified criteria may be shortlisted for interview.

Candidates who may be shortlisted will be given at least one week's notice of the date, time and location of the interview. Interviews will be held during the academic year. Those not short listed for interview will be given notice in due course. Wicklow County Councils decision on each application will be final.

HOW TO APPLY

Each candidate must submit the following:

1. **A fully completed Application Form.** This application form is in three parts which should be completed as follows:
 - **PART 1** by candidate applying for the bursary
 - **PART 2** by Parent / Guardian of candidate or by the applicant if a mature student.
 - **PART 3** by candidate's Referee
2. **Personal Statement** (To be completed by candidate)

(Statements should provide precise and relevant information and should not exceed 500 words in each statement).

Section A.

- Expand on your sporting interest and achievements
- Your interest in your chosen course and evidence to demonstrate this interest.
- Your personal strengths and experiences which you believe will help you to succeed at college.
- Details of any employment, work experience, placement or voluntary work which you consider support your application.
- Any other interests or achievements.
- Any other information which you consider supports your application.

Statement B

- Should highlight any economic, social or other disadvantage, including disability experienced by you or your household.
- Outline how this bursary will help you to progress in your studies and excel in your sport.
- Explain how receiving this bursary will enable you to further your education and continue performing at a high level in your sport.

AWARD OF BURSARY

The Bursary will be awarded on the basis of a candidate's application and interview subject to;

- ♦ True and accurate Information provided in relation to the application

- ♦ An offer of a place in a recognised third level educational institution in the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, UK or EU.
- ♦ The applicant must disclose if they are in receipt of any other Bursary, this will not disqualify the applicant from the Katie Taylor Bursary.

ALL sections of the Application form MUST be completed in FULL prior to the end date.

Wicklow County Council reserves the right to withdraw any award of the Bursary at any time.

Closing Date for receipt of applications is 12 noon on Monday 5th January 2026.

If you have any queries in relation to the bursary, please contact us at the below:

**Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership on 0404 20100 or
Wicklowlsp@wicklowcoco.ie**